

ISLAM

Reality is apparent when bias is shed

By Maulana Wahiduddin Khan

"Who was the God who wrote these signs?" This was the question asked by the great Austrian physicist, Ludwig Boltzmann (1844-1906) when he looked at the inspired equations which the celebrated Scottish physicist, James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879) had written to express the laws of electromagnetic interaction.

Physical studies of the universe do, in fact, indicate that behind all of its functioning there is something which is highly meaningful, but at the same time impenetrably mysterious.

We strive ever onwards towards an analysis of cosmic events, for their manifestations evince careful organization rather than randomness and fortuitousness thus encouraging us to believe that they are created and controlled by some unimaginably superior mind.

Albert Einstein (1879-1955) supported this view when he said that he was more of a philosopher than a physicist, "for I believe there is a reality outside of us." In this sense he belonged "to the ranks of devoutly religious men." With the support of eminent physicists of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as well as the scientific luminaries of the present day, more and more credence is being given by secular schools of thought to the view that the universe is a sign from God. One who observes it without prejudice is sure to find God. But those who allow false beliefs to distort their vision will continue to grope not only in the dark but even in broad daylight. They will not find God even if they stand face to face with Him.

If the foremost physicists of our time can keep their minds open to the possibility of there being a supreme being, a Creator and sustainer, why cannot other people shed their bias and see reality as it is?

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This first appeared on 20 March 2016. The writer could not write this week due to unavoidable circumstances. His latest column will appear soon.